

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 18 are amended herein. Claims 3 and 8 are to be canceled. Please note that all claims currently pending in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. Upon entry, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended)) A method of screening a compound for its ability to ~~interact with~~ activate or suppress A20-interacting proteins-Binding Inhibitor of NFkB activation (ABIN) dependent NF-KB inhibition, said method comprising:  
combining a sample, comprising a compound, to be screened with a protein ~~of an NF-κB related pathway comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9~~ in an assay;  
conducting the assay under conditions ~~[[which]]~~ that permit an interaction of said protein ~~of the NF-κB related pathway~~ with the compound of said sample to be screened;  
detecting an interaction between said protein ~~of the NF-κB related pathway~~ and the compound; ~~[[and]]~~  
identifying the compound in said sample that interacts with said protein ~~of the NF-κB related pathway in said assay~~; and  
assaying said compound for activation or suppression of ABIN dependent NF-κB inhibition.
2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said protein ~~of the NF-κB related pathway~~ comprises an A20 protein.
3. Canceled.
4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[3]]~~1, further comprising combining said sample to be screened and an A20 polypeptide with said protein ~~of the NF-κB related pathway in~~ ~~[[an]]~~ said assay.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4, further comprising assaying said sample to be screened for suppression of an interaction between said protein of the NF- $\kappa$ B related pathway and said A20 polypeptide.
6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4, further comprising assaying said sample to be screened for activation of an interaction between said protein of the NF- $\kappa$ B related pathway and said A20 polypeptide.
7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[3]]1, wherein ~~preparing~~ said assay ~~comprises preparing an assay~~ is selected from the group consisting of a two-hybrid assay and a co-immunoprecipitation assay.
8. Canceled.
9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[8]]1, ~~further comprising assaying said compound for activation or suppression of~~ wherein said ABIN dependent NF- $\kappa$ B inhibition ~~[[of]]is induced by TNF (tumor necrosis factor) and/or IL-1-induced activation of NF- $\kappa$ B inhibition (interleukin-1).~~
10. (Withdrawn) A method of screening a compound for its ability to interact with A20 interacting proteins, said method comprising:  
preparing a read out system capable of detecting an interaction between a protein of the NF- $\kappa$ B related pathway and a compound in a sample to be screened;  
combining said sample to be screened with said protein of the NF- $\kappa$ B related pathway and said read out system in a reaction mixture;  
maintaining said reaction mixture under conditions that permit interaction of said protein of the NF- $\kappa$ B related pathway with said read out system; and  
identifying a compound in said sample which interacts with said protein of the NF- $\kappa$ B related pathway in said read out system.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein said protein of the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway comprises A20.
12. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein preparing said read out system comprises preparing a two-hybrid assay.
13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 10, wherein said protein of the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:8, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:5.
14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, further comprising identifying said compound in said sample that suppresses an interaction between said protein of the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway and A20.
15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, further comprising identifying said compound in said sample that activates an interaction between said protein of the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway and A20.
16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, further comprising assaying the compound for activation or suppression of NF- $\kappa$ B inhibition.
17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, further comprising assaying the compound for activation or suppression of TNF or IL-1 induced activation of NF- $\kappa$ B.
18. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~said protein of the NF- $\kappa$ B related pathway is a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9, said protein having NF- $\kappa$ B inhibitory activity as determined by an~~ assaying said compound for activation or suppression of ABIN dependent NF- $\kappa$ B inhibition comprises conducting a NF- $\kappa$ B dependent reporter gene assay.